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Date of Signature and Deposit: May 18, 2006


Zhibin Ren, Reg. No. 47,897

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Balaraman Kalyanaraman, et al.

Group Art Unit: 1655

Serial No.: 10/820,599

Examiner: Amanda P. Wood

Filed: 04/08/2004

File: 650053.00044

Title: 2-HYDROXYETHIDIUM, METHODS OF
PREPARATION AND USES THEREOF

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to an office action dated April 27, 2006 in the above-identified application, which imposed a requirement for restriction on applicants, applicants provisionally select Group I, claims 1-5 for examination. Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement below.

The restriction requirement is traversed in that such requirements are optional in all cases. MPEP § 803. If the search and examination of a set of claims can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine them on the merits, even though they may arguably be directed at distinct or independent inventions. MPEP § 803. Applicants respectfully submit that groups I-IV claims are directed at highly related subject matter and thus can be examined together without serious burden. On the contrary, it will be unnecessarily burdensome on both applicants and the patent office to consider the highly related subject matter in several separate patent applications. This is especially true given that the patent office had already issued a substantive office action on January 19, 2006, to which applicants have responded.

No extension of time is believed to be necessary and no fee is believed to be due in connection with this response. However, if any extension of time is required in this or any subsequent response, please consider this to be a petition for the appropriate extension and a request to charge the petition fee to the Deposit Account No. 17-0055. No other fee is believed to be due in connection with this response. However, if any fee is due in this or any subsequent response, please charge the fee to the same Deposit Account No. 17-0055.

Respectfully submitted,



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